Tape Recorders, self-measurement in real time

Tape Recorders is the 14th element of the Subsculpture series by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer. The work once agin elects the audience as crucial element in the unfolding narrative. It consists of two lines of motorized roll tapes, located on two opposite walls that roll upward, parallel to the wall they are placed on. A system of Kinect sensors registers the presence of visitors in the installation and cause the nearest roll to a visitor to climb upwards. When the tape reaches about 3m high, it stops and drops down in the direction of the user (to a safe distance), to then roll up again on itself and close the narrative loop. Data concerning the interaction is then sent to another device that analyses and prints out information. The unequal lines drawn by the tapes more or less unrolled and lengthened on the walls are reminiscent of a histogram, as if they measure our presence in the world in realtime. The movement of the tapes invites audience members inside the work, who become aware of their centrality to the process. Chiara Ciociola